

(copy)

PATENT

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October 29, 2001  
Date

Ayesha S. Wilks  
Ayesha S. Wilks

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal  
Serial No. : 09/652,968  
Filed : August 31, 2000  
Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Attorney Docket No.: 501082.13 (98-0616.12)  
Group Art Unit : 2815  
Examiner : Jose R. Diaz

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114

Box RCE  
Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant requests continued examination, under 37 C.F.R. 1.114, of the above-identified application.

1. Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. 1.114

- a. ☐ Submission previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. ☐ Consider the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. ☒ Submission enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
  - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

**2. Suspension of Action** (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i) required)

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_ months.

**3. Accompanying Papers**

☒ Postcard  
☒ Check  
☒ Fee Transmittal Sheet  
☐ Petition

**4. Deposit Account**

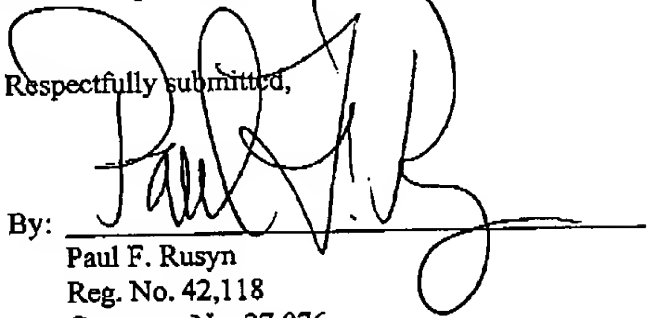
☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required in the above-identified patent application to Deposit Account No. 50-1266.

Date:

29 Oct. 01

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 43, 44, 76 and 77 as follows:

43. (Amended) A method of passivating a multiplayer conductive structure, comprising:
- layering a first conductive material;
  - introducing a selection of  $N_2/H_2$ ,  $N_2$ , and  $NH_3$  plasma to said first conductive material;
  - releasing nitrogen from said plasma with electromagnetic energy;
  - and